



Making Kenya's hospitality globally competitive
KENYA ASSOCIATION OF HOTEL KEEPERS

Half Year Advocacy Report

First Half 2024

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1. Meeting with the President, H.E. Dr. William Ruto

The Association engaged with the President H.E. Dr. William Ruto, with a team from KEPSA. Our CEO, Mike Macharia and Jimmi Kariuki, MD Sarova & KAHC Board Member, represented the Tourism Industry where we discussed various issues such as Air Access (especially Turkish Airlines), park fees, beach operators and the ETA.

A second meeting was held two weeks later as a follow up to the first meeting and other cross cutting issues were presented to the President, the issue of pending bills was also discussed.





Above: Discussions with the president on various issues in Kenya's tourism sector.

Below: 1. Delegation principals including KAHC CEO Mike Macharia. 2. Members of the delegation from KEPSA and tourism sector. 3. President shares remarks with the delegation after the meeting.



2. TRA Accreditation awards in Mount Kenya

Tourism Regulatory Authority conducted Quality Audits for Accommodation and Catering enterprises in Mt. Kenya region and its environs including Baringo, Nyandarua, Nakuru and Isiolo Counties.

The purpose of the audits was to ascertain the level of conformity to the set National Minimum Standards for accreditation and award of quality mark under the National Accreditation Scheme.

In this regard the Association attended an award ceremony on 9th February, 2024 at Nokras Riverine, in Muranga County. The Chief Guest at the event was PS, Tourism, John Oloitua.

Here below is the summary of results:

Accreditation	Marks in percentage	Facilities
Gold	70 and above	63
Silver	69-65	64
Bronze	54-45	41
Non accredited	Below 45	122
Total		390

Fairmont Mount Kenya Safari Club emerged as the facility with the highest marks in the exercise. All the facilities that received Gold Accreditation will be considered for the classification exercise.

We congratulate all our members who were awarded at the ceremony. TRA will continue with the exercise in all the other regions of the country, on dates to be communicated in due course.



Below: Speakers and presentations during the awards ceremony.



3. Consultative meeting with KEDIPA Members of Parliament on improving accessibility in hospitality sector.

Westminster Foundation Democracy and the Kenya Disability Parliamentary Association (KEDIPA) invited the Association in Naivasha for a consultative meeting towards improving accessibility in the hospitality sector especially for Persons With Disabilities (PWDs).

At the forum the parties discussed ways to work together to achieve inclusivity for Persons With Disability in the industry.



4. KAHC Strategic Plan Employee Retreat

The Secretariat had a retreat in the month of March at Sandies Tropical Village, Malindi, with the aim of discussing the upcoming KAHC strategic plan 2024-2029. At the forum the Employees discussed the direction that they felt that the Association should take for prosperity.



5. KAHC Finance Conference

The 4th Finance Conference was held on 21st and 22nd March 2024 at the Medina Palms Resort. The event brought together finance managers/financial controllers with the aim of discussing matters touching on their operations. Here below are some of the speakers at the forum:

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| 1. FCPA Robert Waruiru | Tax Lawyer |
| 2. Ms. Hakamba Wangwe | The Head of ETIMS project at KRA |
| 3. Mr. Paul Njuguna | Data protection expert with hospitality background |
| 4. Mr. Erick Karani | The Group CEO of Jacaranda Hotels |
| 5. CPA Fredrick Tito | Aaro Systems |
| 6. Mr. Boniface Nyoike | Life Coach |
| 7. FCPA Prof. Nicholas | ICPAK Officials |

The two-day forum also included a cocktail on day 1 and an excursion of day 2. We are currently finalizing on a report on the event and this shall be shared with the members in due course.



6. Meeting with Chairman of ICPAK

KAHC Finance Committee led by the Chairperson, Cathrine Muraige met with the National Chairman ICPAK, CPA, Philip Kakai, where they discussed areas of collaboration and their participation in the Annual KAHC Finance Conference.



7. PS Tourism Thanksgiving Ceremony

The Association attended a thanksgiving prayer service to celebrate the appointment of our PS Tourism, John Ololtuaa. The event was held on 17th February 2024 at Enoosaen Ildolisho Village, Transmara West.

The Chief Guest at the event was the President, H.E. Dr. William Ruto. At the same time a tree growing exercise was launched, in line with the presidential directive of growing 15 billion trees by 2030.



8. Courtesy call to members

The Secretariat had a meeting with the new Cluster General Manager for Fairmont The Norfolk and Fairmont Mara Safari Club – Nils Rothbarth and his team, where we discussed areas of collaboration.

We also had a meeting with the management of Ashnil Hotels, led by their Chairman Mr. Suresh Soffat and their MD Rajan Bandari.



9. Compliance, Anti-Corruption and Ethics in Africa conference, 19-21 of February 2024, Nairobi, Kenya

The Association attended a two-day conference by Middle East and Africa Compliance Association in partnership with the Blue Company on Compliance, Anti-Corruption and Ethics in Africa. In the two day forum the participants had an opportunity to bench mark on compliance practices and discuss how to set up programs in organizations on anti corruption and anti bribery as well as how to mitigate third party and new emerging risks.

10. KUC Refresher Course Graduation

The Association attended the Nairobi Region refresher course graduation ceremony held on 28th March 2024 at Utalii college. There was a total of 600 graduates at the ceremony. The Chief Guest was Tonney Muiruri, Chairman Kenya Utalii College Liaison Committee.



11. TRA Regulations Public Forum

We attended a stakeholders' forum held in Nairobi at Bomas of Kenya on the new TRA Regulations (Tourism Enterprises) where the CEO presented our submissions on the new regulations. We will keep you updated on any new developments on the regulations.



12. Nairobi County Tourism Policy Focus Group Meeting

We participated in the development of a tourism policy for Nairobi County in April. The forum was held at Hennessey Hotel—Nairobi.



13. Labour Day Celebrations 2024

The CEO was present at this year's Labour Day celebrations held at Uhuru Garden. During the event, the President announced a 6% increment on minimum wage. The CS Labour, FKE and COTU were asked to sit and work out modalities of activating the industry wage councils.



14. Magical Kenya Signature Affiliates

The Association participated in a breakfast meeting held in honor of Magical Kenya Signature Affiliates at Norfolk Hotel in April. During the forum the Association was honored for its participation as an Auditor in the exercise. The country currently has 61 signature experiences.



16. Courtesy call to members

The Secretariat had a meeting with the General Manager for JW Marriott, Nairobi Mr. Eben Nel and their Director of Human Resources Jacqueline Odero. We also had a meeting with the new GM of Fairview, Kaliq Essop and his team. We discussed areas of collaboration with the members and they pledged to support the Association in achieving its mandate.



15. CBA Negotiations for Golf Hotel Kakamega

Following a directive by SRC requiring that Government managed hotels undertake separate CBAs in line with the Public Service and SRC Manuals. The Association represented Golf Hotel, who is a member of the Association, as Spokesperson, in a CBA negotiation with KUDHEIHA. The team successfully concluded the negotiations on 21st May 2024.



17. FKE and ITCILO sign MOU to Advance Industrial Relations in Kenya

The Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE) and the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization, Turin – Italy (ITCILO) on May 13, 2024 officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at FKE HQ, Nairobi, Kenya.

This collaboration introduces the International Postgraduate Certificate in Industrial Relations in Kenya, which will be facilitated by FKE Faculty and the International Labour Organization (ILO). The program's holistic curriculum includes Physical Classes in Kenya, Virtual Classes by ILO Faculty, and Physical Classes in Turin, Italy, providing participants with a comprehensive career enhancement tailored for success in the global labor market.

The MOU was signed by Ms. Jacqueline Mugo, EBS, Executive Director & CEO of FKE, and Mr. Paulo Salvai, ILO Program Director in Turin, Italy.



18. Federation of Kenya Employers AGM

The Federation held its 65th National Annual General Meeting on 29th May 2024. At the meeting our CEO, Mike Macharia, was elected 1st National Vice Chairman of the Federation. Dr. Gilda Odera was appointed President and is the first female President of the organization.

19. The EAC Classification—Training of Trainers Program

The EAC Criteria for Accommodation facilities has been going through review, and was approved by the Council of Ministers of the EAC for implementation. Ahead of the beginning of the implementation, the EAC secretariat requested partner states to identify trainers who would undergo a train the trainer's program.

To this end the training was held on 3rd to 5th May 2024 at Pride Inn Paradise, where the trainees were taken through the new classification criteria, code of conduct for assessors, and pedagogy skills. In light of this, Dr. Leah Ng'ang'a, our Admin, who is also a certified EAC Hotel Assessor, was identified to represent the private sector in the training.

Kenya will have three trainers two from Government and one from private sector. They will work with TRA to facilitate training for the new Assessors and also training for the industry.



20. International Organization of Employers (IOE) Presidency

The IOE, elected Mrs. Jacqueline Mugo, FKE, Executive Director, as its President for a 3-year term. Mrs Mugo is the First African woman to be appointed to this role. The IOE is a body that fights and advocates for the interests of employers and business in international policy debates.

21. International Labour Conference 2024

The Association participated in the International Labour Conference that was held on 3rd June-14th June 2024 at Geneva. During the forum the Association participated in several committee meetings including; Standard Setting committee, which is in the process of formulating a new convention on Biological Hazards at the workplace; Committee on Application of Standards which listens to cases pertaining to non-implementation of conventions by member states of the ILO. Here below is a link to this year's conference:

<https://www.ilo.org/meetings-and-events/international-labour-conference>



We also had an opportunity to attend the inaugural forum on the Global Coalition for Social Justice, which is a forum aimed at fostering multilateral cooperation and accelerating the attainment of Sustainability Development Goals. The Chief Guest at the forum was the Brazilian President, Mr. Luiz da Silva.

<https://social-justice-coalition.ilo.org/about>

On the sidelines of the ILC Conference, our CEO, had an opportunity to attend a meeting between the Kenyan Delegation, led by CS Labour, Ms. Florence Bore and the ILO Director General, Mr. Gilbert Hougbo.



We also met the President of the Mozambique Hotel Owners Association Mr. Vasco Manhica and the SG of the Dockworkers Union of Mozambique, on the sidelines of the ILO Conference. The Association would like to sign an MOU with KAHC so that we can help them build capacity at their Secretariat and also share ideas on increasing their tourism numbers.



22. KAHC Board Retreat on the Strategic Plan

The KAHC Board had a one-day retreat on 22nd May at Hilton Garden Inn, with the aim of discussing the upcoming KAHC strategic plan. At the forum the Board discussed and adopted the direction that that the Association should take.



23. Senior Leadership Development Seminar

KAHC was represented by the Association's Finance Officer at the senior leadership development seminar organized by the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK) in Istanbul, Turkey. The seminar brought together heads of finance from both public and private institutions to underscore the Finance function role in effective leadership. Interactions were made with members of the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee, The Controller of Budget Dr. Margaret Nyakango and ICPAK Council members.

The seminar was opened by the Kenyan Ambassador to Turkey, Amb. Leonard Boiyo who took delegates through the Turkish economy and its Tourism industry and what Kenya stands to learn and benefit from the opportunities offered by the republic of Turkiye.



24. KEPSA 20th AGM

KEPSA hosted its 20th Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Two Rivers in Nairobi. This year's AGM marked over two decades of KEPSA's leadership in the private sector and in implementing programs that have fostered business growth and contributed to the country's socioeconomic development.

The event also featured an interactive question-and-answer session among KEPSA Members and the leadership. Further the leadership, which includes KAHC CEO, Mike Macharia, who is the Director Tourism and Labour, held a press conference to engage the media. They addressed the public-private dialogue wins, notably, a series of major victories in shaping the Finance Bill 2024 following the advocacy efforts with the three arms of the Government.



25. KEPSA's Leadership Training on Advocacy and Public Private Dialogue

The CEO was a facilitator at the above, half day forum, that was held at Sarova Panafric on 28th May 2024.



26. Grand opening of Pullman and Mercure Hotels

The CEO, attended the grand opening of Pullman and Mercure Hotels in Upper Hill on 20th June 2024. The event was presided over by PS Tourism John Ololuaa, Pullman GM Gerard Moutou, the investor (Kasada Capital Management) represented by Managing Partner Olivier Grant and KTB's Betty Ichan.

